

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTERS

Ames, Iowa
April 1949

TO: Station active members only and Officers and Directors

1. We recently had a program experience at WOI which might have resulted very unfortunately. The groups involved were the International Council of Christian Churches and the American Council of Christian Churches. These groups are respectively the international and national sections of a dissenting fundamentalistic group who are comprised of such bodies as the "Bible Presbyterian Church", the "Campus" Baptist church, etc. In other words, these groups retain the title of the parent church but are something quite different.

Our contact with them came through the "American Council" when their local secretary telephoned us saying the president of the International Council of Christian Churches, Rev. Carl A. McIntire, Pastor of the Bible Presbyterian Church, was making an Iowa tour, identified him as the president of the International group which met in Amsterdam, Holland, last year and requested permission for him to broadcast. This was granted.

Subsequently I learned from the chairman of the local ministerial council that this group, the International Council of Churches, spent much of its effort in trying to tear down the Federal Council of Churches whom they rail at as being Communistic, and secondly that their Amsterdam meeting was called on the spur of the moment and met two days ahead of the formal and well-known meeting of the World Council of Churches, which was so well reported by NBC, CBS, etc.

Their approach, their letterhead, etc., all tend to imply that THEIR meeting was the bonafide meeting, and that the World Council represented by the Federal Council from the U.S. and planned ahead for several years and representing most of the major church groups was the "fly-by-nite." Any stations have "bitten" on this lure, because nearly everyone assumes these are the true Amsterdam representatives.

On learning that they might want to spend any and all program time in attacking the Federal Council as "Communistic" I checked with the American Council Secretary in Iowa who finally admitted such was their intention, whereupon I told him unless he changed his mind he had better stay home. Then ensued one of these "free speech" arguments, which was finally resolved by letting them appear, not in an address but in an interview where their statements could be challenged.

This group is well-financed, vigorous, and fanatic. It would be well for any program director to double-check any representative they may send around to avoid subsequent trouble from either permission to broadcast or denial.

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2. Attached is an opinion from our counsel, Marcus Cohn of Cohn and Marks in re the so-called AVCO license renewal procedure issued as a proposed ruling by the FCC.

The question of whether or not educational AM stations should oppose the ruling was raised by James Miles, director WBAA, Purdue University.

All NAEB AM stations should study the provisions of this proposed rule (not yet made official) for the reason stations will have to begin license renewal procedure four months ahead of expiration and will also have to advertise in local papers the fact of their application for renewal.

FROM: Richard B. Hull
President

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